

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 041192
ORIGIN SS-25

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DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:TJCAROLAN:LF
APPROVED BY NEA:ALATHERTON, JR.
NEA/ARN:MDRAPER
NEA:AGRIFFIN
S/S:LMACFARLANE

-----240327 021102 /70

P 240311Z FEB 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 041192

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SY, US, PPDC

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT'S FEBRUARY 14 LETTER TO PRESIDENT ASAD

FOR YOUR INFORMATION ONLY, FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF FEB. 14
LETTER FROM PRESIDENT CARTER TO PRESIDENT ASAD, DELIVERED
DURING SECRETARY'S RECENT VISIT TO DAMASCUS.

BEGIN TEXT: DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:
IT IS MY HOPE THAT SECRETARY VANCE'S VISIT TO MEET WITH
YOU AND YOUR ADVISERS, MR. PRESIDENT, WILL LAY A SOLID
FOUNDATION FOR CONTINUED CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN OUR
COUNTRIES AS WE PURSUE OUR COMMON SEARCH FOR A JUST AND
LASTING PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST IN THE CRITICAL MONTHS
AHEAD. MY ADMINISTRATION HAS NO MORE IMPORTANT FOREIGN
POLICY GOAL. WE ARE DETERMINED TO MAKE SERIOUS PROGRESS
IN 1977.

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SYRIA HAS A UNIQUE AND INDISPENSABLE ROLE TO PLAY IN THE
PEACEMAKING PROCESS. I HAVE BEEN ENCOURAGED--BOTH BY YOUR
RECENT PUBLIC STATEMENTS AND BY THE HIGHLY GRATIFYING
EVOLUTION OF OUR RELATIONS WITH SYRIA OVER THE PAST MANY
MONTHS--TO BELIEVE THAT I CAN COUNT ON YOU FOR CANDID,

PRACTICAL COUNSEL AS OUR JOINT EFFORTS PROCEED. I AM
LOOKING FORWARD TO REVIEWING WITH SECRETARY VANCE HIS
ACCOUNT OF HIS TALKS WITH YOU AND MEMBERS OF YOUR GOVERN-
MENT ON WHAT MUST BE DONE NOW.

WITH THE AIM OF DEVELOPING THE GREATEST POSSIBLE SENSE
OF MUTUAL PURPOSE, I WOULD WELCOME THE CHANCE TO MEET WITH
YOU PERSONALLY IN THE NEAR FUTURE. MY FIRST THOUGHT IS
THAT WE MIGHT MEET IN WASHINGTON. I WOULD THEREFORE BE
HONORED IF YOU WOULD ACCEPT MY INVITATION TO VISIT THE
UNITED STATES THIS SPRING, AND I HAVE ASKED SECRETARY VANCE
TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE DATES WITH YOU SHOULD SUCH A VISIT BE
CONVENIENT FROM YOUR POINT OF VIEW.

IF THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE OR CONVENIENT FOR YOU, MR. PRESI-
DENT, I SUGGEST THAT WE AGREE TO SEE EACH OTHER AT SOME
OTHER LOCATION. I AM PLANNING TO ATTEND A MEETING WITH
EUROPEAN, JAPANESE AND CANADIAN HEADS OF STATE IN EUROPE
IN MAY, AND I WOULD BE PLEASED TO MEET WITH YOU BEFORE OR
AFTER THIS CONFERENCE AT A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE LOCATION
IN EUROPE.

THE GOALS WE WANT TO ACHIEVE WILL RELIEVE THE ANXIETIES
OF THE ENTIRE WORLD. YOU CAN DEPEND ON THE UNITED STATES
TO SEEK THESE GOALS WITH THE DETERMINATION WHICH THEY SO
CLEARLY MERIT.

WITH WARMEST REGARDS, SINCERELY, JIMMY CARTER. END TEXT.

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VANCE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, MINISTERIAL VISITS, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS
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